

Arthur Wolfgang Thies

10 November 1918 – 20 February 2013

Arthur Thies, who has died at the age of 94, was elected a member of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria in April 1978. Almost immediately he became active in the operations of the Club, serving on Council in various capacities between 1978 and 1985. From August 1978 he was Correspondence Secretary. He was Honorary Secretary in June and July 1981, and Assistant Honorary Secretary 1984–1985.

Arthur was born in The Hague, Netherlands, and was a German national when he arrived in Australia in 1949; he applied to become a naturalised Australian in 1954. His working life was spent in engineering; in retirement he was able to indulge his interests in the natural world, and thereafter freely and generously gave of his time with a number of related organisations.

Arthur's field of interest was bryophytes, and this was an area in which he made significant contributions, particularly in relation to mosses. He was an avid collector in his chosen field, amassing 994 specimens from eastern Australia (the vast majority from Victoria) and Lord Howe Island, between March 1978 and March 2000. All of these specimens are lodged in the National Herbarium.

Arthur was a long-standing member of the Victorian National Parks Association, and was an outstanding leader of bushwalks for this organisation. He was also an Honorary Associate with the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne from 1991 until the end of 2004. Having developed a great knowledge of his favorite subject Arthur was the natural person to help in the National Herbarium's Bryophyte collection. He was able to identify many of the specimens in the moss and liverwort collections, and subsequently took on the task of arranging the collection.



Photo by Leon Costermans

Arthur contributed to *The Victorian Naturalist* over a period of 23 years, from 1978 to 2001. In addition to a number of book reviews, he was the author of two Contributions regarding the mosses of Lord Howe Island, as follows:

'Moss collections from Lord Howe Island in the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL)' *The Victorian Naturalist*, 2000, 117, 110–113.

(with J Milne) 'Addendum to Moss collections from Lord Howe Island in the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL)' *The Victorian Naturalist*, 2001, 118, 89–92.

In writing this tribute I have been generously assisted by Sheila Houghton, Margaret Corrick, Pina Milne and Michael Howes, and am pleased to thank them all.

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